

A photograph of three people participating in a community cleanup outdoors. In the foreground, a man in a grey t-shirt and dark shorts is bent over, using a large yellow brush to clear debris from a grassy area. Behind him, a young man in a striped shirt is using a red tool to trim a large green bush. To the right, a young woman in a dark blue hoodie and shorts is standing and smiling, holding a long-handled tool. The background shows a residential area with a house and a blue shed.

**BELL GULLY**

# A HELPING HAND

BELL GULLY'S PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMME 2010/2011



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#### FRONT COVER

*Bell Gully summer clerks Lyall Mabin, Nathan Batts and Lara Mannis lend a helping hand to a Leukaemia & Blood Foundation patient.*

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*For more information about Bell Gully's pro bono programme contact:*

**Rachel Gowing**

PRO BONO PROGRAMME MANAGER

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our aim is to build long-term partnerships with organisations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life of the people in our communities.

“ Bell Gully has always been a strong supporter of the community – sharing time, skills and financial support with those in need. As we enter the third year of our formal pro bono programme, our focus remains on providing legal advice to those who can't afford to pay for it, and on supporting not-for-profit organisations that support our communities.

In the time since we developed our programme, we have strengthened existing partnerships and formed new ones with organisations that share our focus. We have also been able to assist a number of individuals who might otherwise have been without access to justice.

The programme is a real source of pride for the firm as a whole. When Bell Gully was awarded the Community Service in Law Award at the 2010 Law Awards, we were seen as a standout performer with respect to our pro bono work.

Bell Gully's contribution to the not-for-profit sector now sees lawyers across all of the firm's practice areas becoming involved in the programme. The benefits are tangible too. At the same time as our lawyers gain valuable experience with aspects of the law they wouldn't otherwise be exposed to, they get an opportunity to make tangible differences in individuals' lives.



**Roger Partridge, Bell Gully Chairman**

And, as a special focus for the coming year, we are exploring opportunities to involve more of our non-legal staff in pro bono work.

We are currently working on how we can best lend our support to those affected by the Christchurch earthquake. We have partnered with the Salvation Army, with whom we have a long-term relationship, to raise funds to support their efforts. As this publication goes to print, Bell Gully's partners and staff have donated in excess of \$38,000 to the cause. We're also working with the New Zealand Law Society to establish how best we can assist at a practical level.

This report provides a snapshot of just some of the work that Bell Gully provides to charitable organisations throughout New Zealand. ”



# PROGRAMME IN ACTION

*"It was clear, from this distance, that Bell Gully provided that impetus and those resources which we lack at our voluntary level. Usually, without such professional help, such exercises falter and lose focus. This by contrast was a great success."*

**WELLINGTON COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE**



*Bell Gully solicitor Ricky Hann volunteering at the Wellington Community Law Centre*

There are 26 Community Law Centres (CLCs) in New Zealand, all of which work on an extremely tight budget focussing on providing essential legal services to their communities.

When it was time to re-negotiate their funding agreements with the Legal Services Agency, Bell Gully agreed to represent all 26 CLCs on a pro bono basis. The team, led by Kate Redgewell, clocked over 500 hours on the project, securing the ongoing funding of New Zealand's community law centres.

Some of the feedback from individual community law centres included:

*"This is one of the best examples I have seen in 14 years with community law centres of a cooperative, collaborative, and professional engagement in such a process."*

*"History shows that we would not have got this far without the negotiation group, it would have been 26 different individual negotiation processes."*

*"The Negotiation Working Party has to be congratulated on how they managed this entire process, which had potential to become convoluted. The overall outcome achieved has to be commended."*

*RIGHT: Bell Gully's provision of over 500 hours of pro bono work renegotiating the funding contracts for Community Law Centres was recognised by a full page ad in LawTalk.*





## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Community Law Centres enjoy the support of many of you in meeting the unmet legal needs in our communities. We remain very grateful for that support and hope that it will continue to be provided for many years to come.

Community Law Centres' primary funding is administered by the Legal Services Agency, who are tasked with contracting for the delivery of the Government's community justice outcomes.

Our recent renegotiation of that contract has provided greater certainty, clarity and national alignment for Community Law Centres. We were assisted in that renegotiation by Bell Gully, who provided almost 500 hours of pro bono support. We would not have been able to achieve our desired outcomes nor project-managed such a sizeable undertaking without their expert guidance, sage advice and unwavering commitment.

On behalf of our Community Law Centres we sincerely thank Bell Gully for their support and their wider commitment to providing pro bono service to many worthy causes.

  
Rev Mua Strikson - Pua  
Grey Lynn

  
John Cawood  
Wairarapa


  
David Oughton  
Whitireia

  
Andrew McKenzie  
Canterbury

  
Cameron Madgwick  
Wellington

  
Heather Allan  
Manawatu

  
Mark Sowman  
Hawkes Bay

  
Sandra Mechen  
Mangere

  
John Chadwick  
Rotorua

  
Doc Wi Repa  
Baywide

  
Sue Lane  
Hamilton District

  
David Wilson  
Whanganui

  
Cyril Gilroy  
Southland

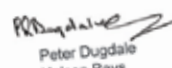
  
Hamish Peart  
Auckland Disability Law

  
Nicola Taylor  
Ngai Tahu

  
Wiremu Tumai  
Nga Ture Kaitiaki

  
Tricia Hook  
Mariborough

  
Helen Davidson  
Dunedin

  
Peter Dugdale  
Nelson Bays

  
Belinda Watson  
Tairāwhiti

  
Mark Harbrow  
Youthlaw

  
Mike Merrick  
Taranaki

  
Joy Bullen  
Hutt Valley



*Peter Jenkins, Bell Gully Senior Associate, pictured above with Vivian Kao, a Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office lawyer he mentors.*



*Waitakere Community Law Service  
Left to Right: Cziana Reuben, Lawyer, WCLS,  
Caroline Batley, secondee solicitor, Bell Gully  
and Paula Bold-Wilson, Manager, WCLS.*

### **Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office**

In 2010, Bell Gully continued to increase its support of the Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office (GLNLO). The firm provides a secondee lawyer one day each week for eight week placements, allowing a range of staff to experience the GLNLO environment.

We also provide lawyers to advise at the GLNLO's Thursday evening clinics, with a total of 20 advisory role slots being filled by Bell Gully lawyers in 2010.

A new initiative for 2010 was the establishment of a mentoring programme, with senior Bell Gully lawyers partnered to junior GLNLO lawyers.

### **Waitakere Community Law Service**

Bell Gully provides a secondee lawyer every Monday, each taking an eight week placement.


As with the GLNO, Waitakere Community Law Service (WCLS) lawyers are invited to participate in Bell Gully's in-house training sessions and to take advantage of legal research skills training.

Commenting on the relationship, WCLS stated:

*"Our partnership with Bell Gully has enabled us to maintain our core values without interruption. It has also enabled us to meet some needs that we otherwise would not be able to."*

### **Wellington Community Law Centre**

Bell Gully has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Wellington Community Law Centre (WCLC), with our lawyers encouraged to volunteer their time at the centre during working hours. We are working on developing this into a formal secondment programme like those we have with the GLNO and the WCLS, and we are also looking to put in place a mentoring programme where WCLC staff have regular meetings with Bell Gully lawyers to discuss difficult cases and good practice management.



*“Personally, it has been rewarding to be able to assist people in a practical way, particularly when they are faced with a problem that is causing them a great deal of worry and discomfort.”*

**PETER JENKINS**  
**SENIOR ASSOCIATE AND GLNLO MENTOR,**  
**BELL GULLY**



“ One of our value statements is to be not-for-profit in nature but commercially smart as an organisation. We want to lead the way in the NGO sector by having the best systems and processes to back up our programmes. Bell Gully enable us, through their extremely high standards and professionalism, to be true to our value statement. **The bonus is, due to their friendly approach, they really are one of the team.** ”

**BRUCE PILBROW , CEO/DIRECTOR , PARENTS INC**



### **Parents Inc.**

Parents Inc. offers a range of programmes and services designed to help parents raise great kids.

In line with their vision – *“to positively impact every family”* – Parents Inc. provides a range of practical parenting groups, workshops, community-wide events, publications and programmes to parents.

Bell Gully has supported Parents Inc. for the past few years by providing a significant amount of pro bono legal advice.

### **New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation**

Bell Gully is a strategic partner of the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation. A non-government funded charitable trust, the foundation promotes awareness of breast cancer, provides information and education, and raises funds to support breast cancer-related initiatives including research, scholarships, medical grants, community education and a breast cancer patient register. Bell Gully provides legal advice pro bono.

### **Business Mentors**

The role of Business Mentors is to provide a volunteer mentoring service to help SME businesses survive and grow. Mentors can assist in identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth that may have been missed by managers too close to the business. With a resource of over 1,600 business mentors nationwide, Business Mentors can match businesses with mentors who have specific and relevant skills and knowledge.

Bell Gully has provided pro bono support to this not-for-profit organisation for a number of years.

*“Bell Gully have been a tremendous support over the many years that the organisation has been delivering the business mentoring programme.*

*We are extremely grateful to have such a significant legal partner, with such a wide array of knowledge and resources at our disposal to ensure we can continue to support the development of SME businesses throughout New Zealand for the benefit of both the economy and the community.”*

**RAY SCHOFIELD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



### **Camp Quality New Zealand Endowment Trust**

The objective of Camp Quality is to give children living with cancer an opportunity to have fun, hope and happiness in their every day living. The Camp Quality New Zealand Endowment Trust has been set up to provide ongoing support to Camp Quality in achieving its goals. Bell Gully has been providing the Trust with pro bono legal advice.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit organisation that works to eliminate sub-standard housing by building, renovating and selling simple, decent houses on an affordable basis. Since 1993, Habitat for Humanity has helped give over 300 families a hand up into their own home.

Bell Gully has supported Habitat for Humanity for several years by providing pro bono legal advice.

### **Ranfurly Trust**

The Ranfurly Veterans Home & Hospital specialises in caring for the needs of service veterans - whether from the armed services or civilian service sectors.

Administered by the Ranfurly Trust, it is the centre of veteran care in the greater Auckland region.

Bell Gully provided Ranfurly Trust with significant pro bono legal advice in 2010 and is continuing to do so in 2011.

### **Auckland Regional Charity Hospital Trust**

The Auckland Regional Charity Hospital Trust (ARCH) provides free elective surgery to patients who have been removed from public hospital waiting lists (due to rationalisation) and who are in immediate need but without the financial means to seek private care.

As a charitable trust, the hospital is entirely dependent upon donations and the voluntary services of its supporters, including doctors, who all give freely of their time. There are currently over 20 doctors involved. A part-time admin person is the only paid employee. Costs are mainly for disbursements and are met through fundraising and support from the business and medical fraternity, such as private medical establishments allowing ARCH to use their facilities at reduced cost. Bell Gully has provided pro bono legal support.



## Litigator Tom Horder has been lending a much needed helping hand to a Wellington family

In April 2010, Bell Gully was asked to act on behalf of the family and advocates of a severely disabled user of residential services in Wellington. The relationship between the family and the service provider had been dysfunctional for a number of years owing to the family's willingness to question the manner in which services are provided and the way in which public funds are allocated by the service provider. Late in 2009, the service provider gave notice to the family that it intended to expel their son from his current house.

In New Zealand, residential disability support services (primarily involving housing for disabled people) are provided by various service providers who contract with, and are funded by, the Ministry of Health. Under those contracts, providers are subject to a range of codes, guidelines and principles which define the quality of services that must be provided to residents. These include the Health and Disability Code of Consumer Rights and

the Residential Service Specifications. It is through the application of these documents that the rights of residents are upheld.

Bell Gully advised the family and advocates on the applicability of the various rules and principles that govern the provision of disability services in New Zealand, and assisted in negotiating with the service provider, the Ministry of Health and various other interested parties in an attempt to resolve the long standing issues.

Bell Gully also advised on a related complaint to the Health & Disability Commissioner.

While the family have accepted that moving their son from the care of the current provider is the best option going forward, they objected to the speed with which the provider proposed to effect the expulsion. Their concern was borne of awareness as to the importance of routine and environmental familiarity to people like their son.





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*“From the minute we first engaged, until today, you have shown the kind of enthusiasm and support that we needed to help him in his journey to protect his right to live where he likes and an ordinary life. You and your team and people in the background were prepared to give him a chance. And for that we are very grateful.”*

FEEDBACK FROM THE FAMILY

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# OVERVIEW

We are working towards achieving our target of providing \$1 million annual fee equivalent pro bono legal work in 2011.

## IN 2010:

**25**

hours per year available for every legal staff member (many are credited for significantly more)

**91**

legal staff involved in the programme

**43%**

of partners worked on pro bono matters

*Bell Gully has a firm-wide commitment to support the community with continuous development of its pro bono programme.*

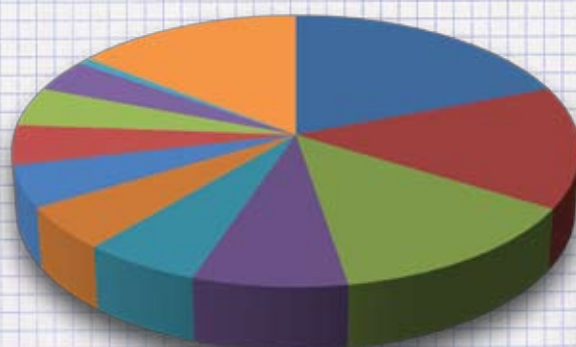
**A COMMITTEE** of six partners and four senior associates oversees the programme. Committee members are partners **Andrew Beatson**, **Brynn Gilbertson**, **Hugh Kettle**, **Mathew McKay**, **Ralph Simpson**, **Mark Todd**, and senior associates **Rachel Gowing**, **Hayley Miller**, **Kate Redgewell** and **Kyra Vince**. Rachel is also the pro bono programme manager.

## THE BELL GULLY PRO BONO PROGRAMME

Our formal written policy establishes structure and processes around how we source, manage and promote pro bono work, with specific criteria for acceptance of pro bono matters. The criteria are aimed at ensuring the programme reaches those who need it most, with the focus on:

- enhancing access to justice for those who can't afford to pay for it;
- promoting the public interest in cases where an individual or group has no other feasible means of gaining access to the legal system; and/or
- cases that raise a wider issue of public interest.

## TOTAL PRO-BONO FOR 2010





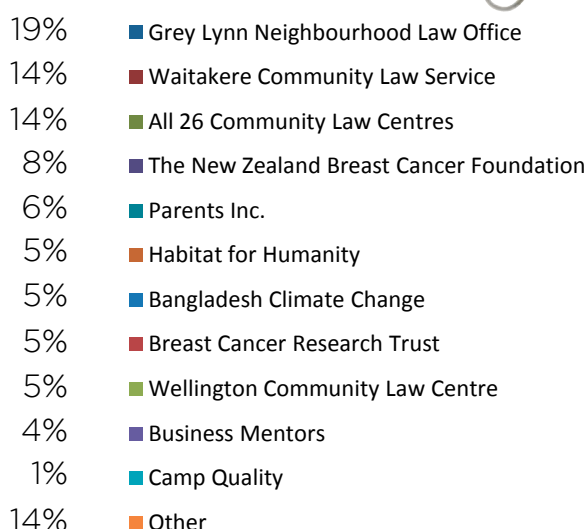
*“I have really enjoyed the challenge of dealing with the wide range of issues that people come in with. It is so satisfying to be able to provide practical and legal help to people who really need it and would not otherwise have access to it. It has made the time I spent there really enjoyable.”*

**KATE VENNING, SOLICITOR, BELL GULLY** ON HER TIME AT THE GREY LYNN NEIGHBOURHOOD LAW OFFICE

## PEOPLE

91 legal staff and 20 partners worked on pro bono matters in 2010. Just some of the recipients of our pro bono work were:

- Breast Cancer Research Trust
- Business Mentors
- Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office
- The New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation
- Parents Inc.
- Royal New Zealand Plunket Society
- The Salvation Army
- Waitakere Community Law Service
- Wellington Community Law Centre



## IN 2010:

**30**

number of organisations benefiting from our pro bono programme

**90**

pro bono matters worked on



*Peter Jenkins, Senior Associate, with Helen Twentyman, Head Solicitor at the Grey Lynn Neighbourhood Law Office.*

The number of hours worked on pro bono matters in 2010 totalled

**2,627**

This was in addition to the huge time commitment made by the pro bono committee in administering and managing the programme.

# COMMUNITY

*“Our individual challenges (including wharf-jumping, waxing and baking) were gleefully encouraged by all. Bell Gully’s strong sense of community, endless encouragement and support allowed us to raise an amazing amount for LBF.”*

**LOWRY GLADWELL, SOLICITOR, BELL GULLY**

## Leukaemia & Blood Foundation

Bell Gully has had a long relationship supporting the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation (LBF), and over the last six years has raised over \$146,000 solely through activities such as Shave for a Cure, Dine with a Difference and in 2010, the inaugural Golf Marrowthon 100 Hole Challenge.

The Golf Marrowthon involves individuals being sponsored by family, friends, business associates and golfing buddies, with a goal of raising \$25 per hole. The funds raised help LBF to provide ongoing patient support, research, information, awareness and advocacy.

Our summer clerks also spend time helping patients with a range of tasks as part of their annual community leadership initiative.

This year summer clerks in both Auckland and Wellington assisted with garden maintenance and general household chores at the homes of LBF patients, as well as sprucing up the LBF headquarters in Auckland.

As part of its key client programme, Bell Gully undertakes regular online client reviews. To encourage client participation, Bell Gully makes a cash donation to LBF for every review completed.

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*“We value Bell Gully’s support for the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation on many levels. From vital fundraising support and participation through our events, Shave for a Cure and 100 Hole Golf Marrowthon to the Summer Clerks who spend time assisting patients and families in the community, the help given is invaluable. We are extremely appreciative of the ongoing commitment from Bell Gully staff to actively engage in our work.”*

**PRU ETCHEVERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LBF**

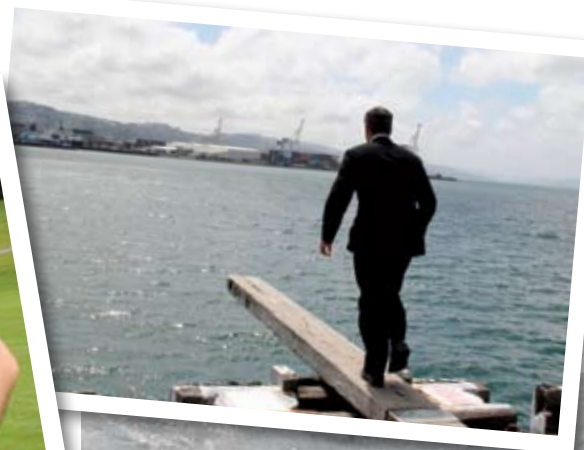
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Lowry Gladwell



*Golf Marrowthon participants  
Steffan Kelly & Thomas Leslie*



*Partner Hugh Kettle  
(centre) with solicitors  
Brendon Clarke and  
Lowry Gladwell,  
following their dip in  
Wellington Harbour.*



*The 2010/11 Bell Gully Summer Clerks after  
their day assisting LBF and its patients.*

### Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was founded in the East End of London in 1865, and has had a New Zealand presence since 1883, when two Salvation Army officers established the New Zealand arm. Bell Gully has been supporting the Salvation Army since 1887, and today that support embraces a number of elements including pro bono legal advice, sponsorship support and annual donations to support them at Christmas, when their services are often under extreme pressure.



*Jared McIntosh lends a hand at the home of a Leukaemia and Blood Foundation patient.*

### Mentoring – Taita College

Now established for 11 years, Bell Gully's mentoring programme helps year 11 to 13 students from Taita College.

Bell Gully lawyers provide mentoring and practical assistance to students, supporting them in learning, development and career choices.

Taita College students take part in events with our mentors throughout the year, with mentors encouraging students to work hard to achieve their full potential. We hope by raising their awareness and understanding of a wide range of career options it will not only broaden their horizons as individuals, but also help them into their chosen career path.

Our mentors take students to University open days, invite them into our offices to experience working in a professional services firm, as well as offering practical advice and support.







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Finally, we wish to thank all those individuals who have offered their helping hands to ensure our programme delivers valuable results to those who need it the most. In particular, we acknowledge the wonderful organisations, some of which are mentioned in this report, and their people. We value and enjoy working alongside you, to help you make the differences you do.

**BELL GULLY PRO BONO COMMITTEE**





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